

Cometeer

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Packer Tailgate Tour Stops at D-DHS



Blake Martinez (50) of the Green Bay Packers speaks to students at Delavan-Darien High School as teammates Ty Montgomery (88) and Kenny Clark (97) listen.

Members of the Green Bay Packers organization tossed prizes to students at Delavan-Darien High School during a surprise assembly. Among the students (front from left) trying to catch prizes are Katie Rosenow, Jordan Dexter, Carol Lima, Hailey Witliff and Carter Torkleson



Principal Jim Karedes (left) of Delavan-Darien High School accepts a check for \$2,000 for the school's physical education department from Mark Murphy, president and chief executive officer of the Green Bay Packers, during a surprise visit to D-DHS.

Photos courtesy of Evan Siegle of packers.com

Packers thrill students with surprise visit

By Jacob Prado, Morgan Lock and Kaia Warner
Cometeer staff

On Friday, April 13, students at Delavan-Darien High School were thrown a surprise when six Green Bay Packers players, both current and alumni, stopped by D-DHS. As part of their annual Tailgate Tour, the players, along with team president and CEO Mark Murphy, arrived at D-DHS in their specially-designed tour bus.

The current players included defensive lineman Kenny Clark, linebacker Blake Martinez and running back Ty Montgomery, while alumni included long snapper Rob Davis, wide receiver Antonio Freeman and tight end Bubba Franks.

The purpose of the players coming to D-DHS was to talk about bullying, the importance of education, and presenting a donation of \$2,000 to the D-DHS physical education department. Murphy made the presentation to Jim Karedes, D-DHS principal, at the

assembly.

During the event, students were able to ask the players questions and many did, with bullying and the importance of education being discussed through their answers.

When asked what message the team is trying to send, Martinez responded with, "I think, overall, the message is respect and believing in yourself. If you can do that, you'll go farther in life." Even though there have been different messages throughout the tour, the main principle is respect. Respect is important to Martinez, as well as the other Packers, as well as for students in our schools, and all members of our community.

Martinez gave time to answer a few questions from Cometeer staff members following the presentation in the gym. Television crews in the Commons area also interviewed students following the event, with many appearing on the evening news broadcasts from Milwaukee, as well as on their online sites. The packers.com Web site also provided coverage of the event, which could still be seen on the site at the time of this writing.

Students get involved in service projects

By Morgan Lock
Cometeer staff

There are many leadership opportunities here at Delavan-Darien High School, but one of the foundations that many students don't know about is DAYS. So what exactly is DAYS, you ask? DAYS stands for Delavan Area Youth Service.

On its Web site, <https://daysfoundation.org/>, there are many different resources for volunteer work. They can help you start your own community project that you think is needed, there are ways to sign up to help with projects already going on, and there are ways to learn more about how to help your community.

Just to list some examples that are going on, or that already happened, are: sophomore Alyssa Cardenas' clothing donation project, senior Ryan Severson's collecting donations for the food pantry, senior Jaida Speth was the leader of a litter cleanup campaign, Olivia Patterson, a junior, was a "student site leader" at the Run for Education event, and Seth Grabow was able to use a grant and

donate a lot of food to the Twin Oaks Homeless Shelter, the food pantry, and for the Andy's lunch program.

These are all many different ways that these students could get involved in the community and help out. When asked what the DAYS program and the volunteering experiences meant to her, Patterson said she's known Julie Supernaw, the woman in charge of DAYS, for a long time, and she was originally excited because of her. Then, as she got involved, she said, "I saw how many other kids were participating and how it was impacting the school and got really excited about it and looked for other opportunities to participate."

She originally wanted to be a site leader for DDYES day, another annual event the school holds, but was unable to make it that day, so she was able to help out with the Run for Education event. The DAYS foundation is just one way you can be involved in your community and school here at D-DHS. Contact Julie Supernaw for more information.

March for Our Lives touches close to home *Many D-DHS students participate in 17-minute walkout*

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

Back on Valentine's Day, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, a high school in Parkland, Florida, was a victim of a school shooting. A 19-year-old former student, Nikolas Cruz, went to the high school, armed with a semi-automatic rifle and magazines, where he pulled the fire alarm and began to fire.

The shooting lasted for a total of about six minutes before Cruz dropped his weapon, blended into the crowd and left the school and later that day was arrested for the shooting, to which he later confessed. In the six minutes Cruz was firing shots in the school, he murdered 17 students and teachers and wounded another 17. In the midst



of recovering from the actions that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the affected students and community sparked a nationwide

movement for gun reform and school safety.

In the midst of their grieving, young adults at MSD began to fight for gun reform and school safety through the media, social media platforms, and speaking out. The students wanted, and still want, a ban on all semi-automatic guns and weapons of war, ban on bump stocks or other accessories that make a gun automatic or semi-automatic, raising the legal age to buy a gun to 21, and many other things dealing with gun reform.

Days after the shooting the students held a rally for common-sense gun laws in Fort Lauderdale and this wouldn't be the last. Since then there has been a Town Hall meeting with senators, the Broward County sheriff, and a National Rifle Association spokesperson. There was also a nationwide school walkout a month after the shooting on March 14, and a few other rallies and other meet-

ing and calls for these common-sense gun laws. One of the most recent events is the worldwide March for Our Lives.

The March for Our Lives took place in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, March 24, with about 800 sibling marches worldwide. During the March in D.C., many students from all over the country, including Parkland and Chicago, spoke on gun reform issues and the need for common-sense gun control.

There was said to be 800,000 people who filled the streets of D.C. for the March for Lives event and more all across the country, many of these people being young people fighting for the same causes. Sibling marches were held in other cities like Chicago, Parkland, Madison, Phoenix, Louisville, and many more across the country, but also some around the world. The student speakers at the March on Washington were joined by many others in support of their cause, including celebrities who performed during the March and some saying a few words also.

The March for Our Lives came just 10 days after a National School Walkout that occurred March 14, just one month after the Parkland shooting. High school students across the country participated in the 17-minute walkout, and students here at Delavan-Darien High School also took part in the walkout. Students were dismissed from class and met in the Commons, where they then proceeded to walk out to the front of the school and stood for 17 minutes. The main purpose of the National School Walkout at D-DHS is still unclear - some students saying this was for better gun reform, others saying it was to remember the 17 lives lost at Parkland, and others saying different things. Most news outlets reported the nationwide walkouts to be in remembrance of the 17 lives lost at the Parkland shooting just a month earlier.

While these protests, walkouts, and the fight for gun laws, it is noted to be mindful that students, and everyone around you, have the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and may express their opinions as they please, even if you disagree. Some students at D-DHS have shown they also support the cause and organized the walkout with the school in an effort to show their support for the movement. The fight for common-sense gun laws, gun reform, and safer schools continues even after the March for Our Lives

2018 Delavan-Darien High School Prom

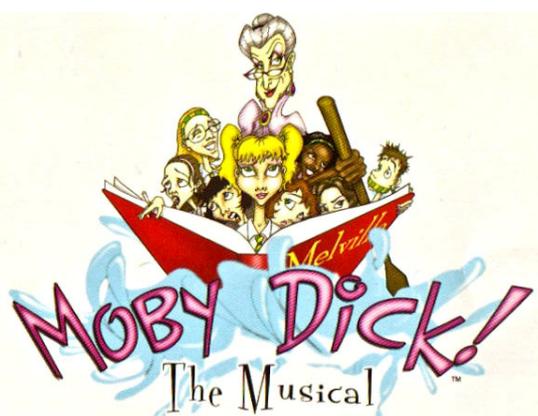


Delavan-Darien High School students enjoy the prom held at The Riviera in Lake Geneva on March 24.



Prom queen Caitlynn Kirsch, dances with Ryan Severson. Eric Gonzalez was crowned prom king.

Photos courtesy of the D-DHS yearbook staff



Moby Dick The Musical was performed March 9,10 and 11 at D-DHS



Catharine Gamble and Richard Karbash



(From left) Liliana De La Cruz, Hunter Gebauer, Ronnell Fleming, Kora Zoe Quinn



(From left) Lindsay VanDeBogert, Olivia Patterson, Caleb Reshkus

Planning early is key advice for seniors

By Morgan Lock
Cometeer staff

The end of the school year - it's fun, all your stress goes away, right? Well, not necessarily for seniors.

The end for our seniors means leaving Delavan-Darien High School behind and moving onto the next step. Whether it be the military, work, tech school, or some other college program, seniors have to go on to the next chapter of their lives.

That doesn't mean forgetting the important life lessons they learned in their four years of high school, but taking them into the next adventure ahead of them. Where do most D-DHS students end up after their years here?

"About three-quarters of our students move on to college for further schooling, and a lesser percentage take the military route, but they still may go that route afterwards," said school counselor Ms. Kelly O'Connell.

Senior Catharine Gamble is attending college and she has conflicted feelings on it.

"It is scary and kind of exciting," said Gamble. "You get butterflies in your stomach."

If you want to continue your education, you're going to need some helpful tips. Both Gamble and O'Connell say it is important to know what you want in a college, such as size and the distance you desire to be away from home. Gamble said high school has taught her a lot and it helped to "shape" her and "you meet people who you never would've met and they help shape you to who you are."

High school may be stressful, but that's because you're planning for your future beyond it. Planning is important, but don't be afraid to focus on the present. As well as visiting all different colleges that have programs for what you're interested in, scholarships are a very useful tool to getting into one's desired college. The value of scholarships vary among which ones you apply for, but usually "the same ones are consistent each year," O'Connell said.

Useful advice for applying for scholarships would be to "apply for



Kelly O'Connell

local scholarships and ones that only students in our school can receive. It makes the pool of applicants smaller and gives you more of a chance. Also, you want to get involved and start looking early," said O'Connell.

You need to check the requirements for scholarships to see if you can even qualify, depending on the circumstances. Say college isn't the right path for you, you could either continue onto the military or you can get a job straight out of high school. If that is your plan, you can acquire some skills in high school that others may not have so that you are able to do that, such as working in the D-DHS FAB LAB.

"Some seniors already have jobs lined up and they aren't even out of high school yet," said O'Connell. It is important to "get your foot in the door now," she added. That way, you aren't missing out on any opportunities of which you can take advantage.

Doing simple things, such as "getting to school on time," and turning in your homework show your responsibility and readiness for the future.

If going into the military is what you desire, you're going to need some help along the way as well. The first thing you'd want to do is talk to a recruiter early. Make sure you're really interested and they can give you some insights along the way. Then, you'd want to take the ASVAB test. This test determines your rank and how knowledgeable and useful you'd be in the United States troops. Take this test as early as you can, and many, many times, so that way you can keep improving.

You would also want to attend an ROTC, or the Reserve Officer Training Corps, a class to help you prepare for what is next to come on your military journey pathway.

Senior Tyler Nevala never had a doubt the military is his destiny. "I have always wanted to be in the military and I didn't want to go to college, so, honestly, it was the best choice for me," he said. Nevala did do his basic training in the summer between his junior and senior year (the best and most recommended time) and he said his experience was "a challenge and very interesting."

Choosing a specific branch of the military was easy for Nevala and he chose the Army National Guard because "it was part-time and I could live at home."

No matter what you want to do for your future, take some advice from D-DHS seniors and start planning early. That will make for a little less stress come graduation day.

(Trinity Dement of the Cometeer contributed to this article.)



Members of The Cometeer newspaper staff at Delavan-Darien High School (from left) are: Kaia Warner, Morgan Lock, Racheal Bradley, Jacob Prado and advisor Thom Aiello. Not present was Trinity Dement. (Staff photo)

Review: The Weeknd returns at top level

By Jacob Prado
Cometeer staff

On Tuesday, March 27, The Weeknd posted a screenshot on Instagram that featured a conversation with La Mar Taylor, his creative director, which read a text message saying, “Should we drop Friday? I’m indifferent to be honest.”

This message sparked excitement in fans all over the world, as it might have meant new music from The Weeknd, which would be the first time we’ve seen music from The Weeknd since 2016’s *Starboy*. Before this post, the only tease at new music from the “Starboy” himself was from cryptic pictures of himself on Instagram which showed him in a studio and had the description “Mastering.” Another came from Travis Scott, who posted on Twitter: “Abel new album is scary. It’s like when I first heard him for the first time.” This post, to fans meant The Weeknd’s album was finished.

Without any warning or real promotion for the album, on Thursday, March 29, The Weeknd on Instagram posted the cover for *My Dear Melancholy*, his new album, with the description “tonight.” The new album was kept very secret, not releasing the tracklist until the midnight release of what came to be a six-song EP. The EP had the songs “Call Out My Name”, “Try Me”, “Wasted Times”, “I Was Never There”, “Hurt You”, and “Privilege”. *My Dear Melancholy*, definitely brought old Weeknd vibes with the six-song EP, while also being about heartbreak and love.

The EP came to be The Weeknd’s third consecutive album to debut at the No. 1 spot on the Billboard 200 Albums Chart, marking an achievement in the music business since this is the shortest album, tracklist-wise, to take the top spot on the Billboard 200 Albums Chart since 2010’s *Glee: The Music, Journey to Regionals* soundtrack. Besides the Billboard 200 debut, all six songs from *My Dear Melancholy* debuted in the Billboard Hot 100 with “Call Out My Name” reaching No. 4.

Now that you know the basics of the album, let me move on to the review of *My Dear Melancholy* by The Weeknd.

My Dear Melancholy, when listened to, sounds so much like *Trilogy* and *Kiss Land* era Weeknd, while also still being R&B. *Trilogy* and *Kiss Land* were The Weeknd’s first two albums, respectively, and, although they weren’t No. 1 albums, they are the ones that started out his music career.

The dark and eerie music, slow and somber beats, along with The Weeknd’s high soprano voice, make up this early era of The Weeknd’s music. It wasn’t until 2015’s *Beauty Behind The Madness* that The Weeknd gained worldwide fame with his upbeat, fast, R&B music that caused his rise to the top. But, *My Dear Melancholy*, as promised by Travis Scott, provided for a reminiscent memory of The Weeknd’s beginnings.

The EP is all about heartbreak, unlike The Weeknd’s past music, and you can really feel that, from the sounds of it, The Weeknd was really hurt by his last breakup. Fans, and, of course, myself, have speculated about many of the lyrics of the album to be referencing The Weeknd’s ex’s, like Bella Hadid and Selena Gomez, but nothing has been said about it.

Some of my favorite lyrics from the album are: “We found each

other, I helped you out of a broken place. You gave me comfort, but falling for you was my mistake,” “‘Cause I ain’t got no business catchin’ feelings anyway, I ain’t got no business catchin’ feelings,” “Guess I was just another pit stop, ‘til you made up your mind. You just wasted my time,” “Enjoy your privileged life, ‘cause I’m not gonna hold you through the night,” and so many more!

I loved more than the music, including the lyrics, which I felt were so interesting because The Weeknd seems to throw shade and talk about Selena in all of these songs.

Overall, the EP *My Dear Melancholy*, was such a good EP that I can’t complain about anything and I think that The Weeknd should release more like this soon. I give *My Dear Melancholy* a 10 out of 10 rating. I absolutely loved it and you should give it a listen if you can!

OPINION

Freshman year full of discovery

By Morgan Lock
Cometeer staff

If you asked me how my freshman year was going at the beginning of the year, I would’ve said I was terrified. In the middle, it was OK. Sometimes I would say it’s good. It really depends. This isn’t going to be a super, gushy story about my amazing friends, or a super sad one about some trouble I had, but a mix of both.

High school can be scary, frustrating and tiring, but it can also be very much fun. Although, it is important to make you think about who you are and finding yourself.

This year, one of my best friends moved to a different school and it took a lot of time for me to figure out who I was without seeing her every day. I wasn’t all alone, but I did feel like I was walking around without half of me.

I learned a lot about myself this school year, and I even lost myself for awhile. I did meet some amazing people this school year and they helped me remember who I was. When I lost myself, I was hanging out with some people that I shouldn’t have and it took awhile for me to realize that it was wrong. But when I did, my friends were there to support me. No, it wasn’t easy to let go of these people or to remember who I was, but my friends did help me along the way. I wasn’t doing anything violent or illegal, but I had changed - for the worst.

My friends didn’t like who I was becoming, and that was really my wake-up call. I didn’t want to lose my friends, just because I got caught up with a bad crowd.

On a happier note, the most important thing that I can tell you about entering high school is to be involved. I know, I know, it is a super cliché, but it is true. I met some of my best friends and some of the most amazing people this school year by joining the high school swim team, the student council, the newspaper and by being in the band. If you find something you are interested in, you can have a lot more fun.

Learn to manage your time and what works best for you for classes. It will seem hard, but surround yourself with people that make you feel good, because you are a combination of the five best friends with which you hang out. My best friends have helped shape me into a better person and have helped me get back on the right track when I was going down a not-so-great path. Stick together and you really will have a more fun high school experience.



Fall Sports Awards



SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS, from left: Emily Guzman, Volleyball; Laura Farley, Girls Tennis; Hana Romero, Girls Swimming; Jaime Rodriguez, Boys Soccer; Dakota Lynn, Football; Julian Perez, Cross Country.



TEAM AWARDS, from left: Front Row: Breanna Yartey, Most Improved, Girls Swimming; Paulina Cruz, Outstanding Achievement, Girls Tennis; Erin Sorg, Most Valuable Runner, Cross Country; Zeus Huerta, Outstanding Achievement, Boys Soccer; Eric Gonzalez, Defensive Player of the Year, Football; Jason Cano, Outstanding Achievement, Boys Soccer. Back Row: Sarah Roth, Most Valuable Swimmer, Girls Swimming; Jordan Ivans, Most Improved Runner, Cross Country; Jenna McKinney, Outstanding Achievement, Girls Tennis; Jaida Speth, Most Valuable Player, Volleyball; Kailea Timmerman, Most Improved Player, Volleyball; Dakota Williams, Offensive Player of the Year, Football; Zachery Torres Raby, Most Improved Player, Football.



SOUTHERN LAKES CONFERENCE AWARDS, from left: Front Row: Kayla Wittliff, Honorable Mention Outside Hitter, Volleyball; Katelyn Rosenow, Honorable Mention, Cross Country; Laura Farley, Honorable Mention, Girls Tennis; Eliberto Gomez-Rodriguez, Honorable Mention, Cross Country; Erin Sorg, Southern Lakes Conference Runner of the Year and First Team All Conference, 8th place at State Championship Meet, Cross Country; Zeus Huerta First-Team All-Conference Forward, Boys Soccer; Andres Vasquez, Second-Team All-Conference "At Large Player," Boys Soccer; Logan Rios, Honorable Mention Wide Receiver, Football; Daniel Rangel-Hernandez, Second-Team All-Conference Defender, Boys Soccer. Back Row: Justin Johnson, Honorable Mention Offensive Line, Football; Dakota Williams, Honorable Mention Quarterback, Football; Ross Gengler, Honorable Mention Linebacker, Football; Jason Cano, Southern Lakes Conference Co-Player of the Year, First-Team All-Conference Forward, Boys Soccer; Martin Soto, Honorable Mention Defender, Boys Soccer; Pablo Guzman-Martinez, First-Team All-Conference Midfielder, Boys Soccer.

Sorg earns honor



Erin Sorg of Delavan-Darien High School has been one of the best runners in Wisconsin. On May 14, she was invited to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel High School Sports Awards event at The Pabst Theater in Milwaukee as a nominee for the girls cross country runner of the year honor. There were seven other girls from the JS readership area nominated. The winner was Kate Sperka of Muskego. The other finalists were Kate Jochims of Muskego and Meghan Scott of Divine Savior Holy Angels. Former Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Lakers basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the guest speaker for the event. Sorg, a senior, has been to the state cross country meet three straight seasons. (Photo courtesy of the D-DHS yearbook staff)



Jacob Prado (right), a sophomore at Delavan-Darien High School and a member of The Cometeer newspaper staff, is interviewed by Jim Angeli of WTMJ-TV of Milwaukee after an appearance by members of the Green Bay Packers at D-DHS. Two Milwaukee television stations covered the surprise assembly at D-DHS and some students were featured on the news that night and also with the station's online coverages. (Photo by Thom Aiello, Cometeer advisor)

Pioneering:

Packers deliver important message

By Thom Aiello

Phoenix Rising and Cometeer Advisor

As much of a surprise visit as it was by members of the Green Bay Packers family, perhaps students and faculty at Delavan-Darien High School were more stunned by the messages delivered by the Packers. Can you imagine that big, tough football players were once bullied in school?

“When I was in high school, I was bullied a lot for being an athlete, for being a ‘dumb jock’” said linebacker Blake Martinez, who was a tackling machine for the Packers last season. When Martinez took Advanced Placement classes, the doubts continued from students. “‘Why are you in here? You’re not smart enough.’ They said that to my face,” said Martinez, who said he wanted to punch them in their faces. Instead, he took a step



back.

He said he “answered” that by graduating early and earning a degree in engineering from prestigious Stanford University.

“If you believe in what you want, you will achieve it,” said Martinez. “A lot of doors opened because I took my degree serious.”

“Bullying, it’s a 24/7 thing,” said running back Ty Montgomery, noting that social media is around the clock. “Before social media, you might have gotten away from some (of the bullying).”

He added that if you bully someone, you’re “essentially disrespecting yourself, disrespecting your Creator.”

A former Green Bay star receiver, Antonio Freeman, talked about the highs and lows that come in life and on the football field.

“In life, and especially sports, there will be many ups and downs,” said Freeman.

Another former Packers standout, tight end Bubba Franks, had some words of advice for the students who packed the gym on April 13.

“Treat someone how you want to be treated,” said Franks, who



Delavan-Darien High School Cometeer student writers Kaia Warner (left) and Morgan Lock pose with Blake Martinez of the Green Bay Packers after a surprise visit by members of the Packers. The writers were able to have a brief interview with Martinez. (Cometeer staff photo)

also successfully took the challenge by a couple of students to do a cartwheel, to the cheers of all. “You have a choice of what you want to do in life...Respect each other’s space. Enjoy life.”

The Packers have done Tailgate Tours across Wisconsin in recent springs. They help raise money for local groups, while hyping the upcoming season. Besides the planned events, like a stop in Janesville the night before, the tour has some surprise visits lined up. On this one, team president Mark Murphy also presented a \$2,000 check for the D-DHS physical education program to Jim Karedes, principal at D-DHS.

Karedes said he received a call in October to ask if his school would like the Packers to visit.

“Absolutely, we’d love to have you guys come in,” Karedes said he replied. What he did not know was the school would receive the donation. “That was a complete surprise to me. Wow, that was really impressive.”

Salute to newspaper club members

This is the fourth and final edition of the school year for the revived Cometeer newspaper at D-DHS and the Phoenix Rising publication at Phoenix Middle School. Last school year, there were three editions of the Rising, so it was a step up to produce a product every quarter this school year. For that, the students who were involved deserve congratulations for a collective job well done.

As the club advisor, I am thankful for the students who produced the results, for the support from school personnel and I have to give a big shout out to Wendy Shafer, who voluntarily designed each of the editions this school year. Shafer led the design department when I was the editor of the Delavan Enterprise some years ago and she does this project because she believes in schools having newspapers for the students to have a voice, which is the same reason why I took on an advising role some time ago.

Senior Racheal Bradley joined the club this school year and we enjoyed her contributions. We wish her the best in the future.

Jacob Prado, a sophomore, is the most experienced club member, from his time at Phoenix to his sophomore year at D-DHS. The Cometeer staff is small, but the hope is it will grow as club members from Phoenix move on to D-DHS, but there certainly can be help from students coming from private schools and any student who has not joined yet, but would still like being part of a fun club (yes, we have snacks and beverages at the meetings) that allows your voices to be heard. Several inquired this school year, but did not come out. Give it a try next school year. We have many ways to work around other activities and scheduling, if you feel you do not have time for all of the meetings (which are generally every two weeks for an hour after school).

The Rising had rising numbers on the staff, including a good number of sixth graders. Hopefully they will stick with it, continue to grow and contribute more and more, on a consistent basis. Keep getting your friends involved!

These clubs have some nice diversity. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions about joining, email me at thomaiello@gmail.com at any point. Let’s keep it growing and improving!

Thank you to everyone involved, as well as the nice comments sent to me by staff members and community members. Keep following us online!

PHOENIX RISING

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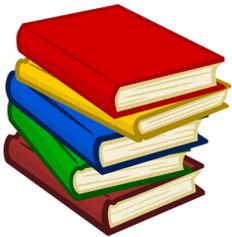


Phoenix librarian sees changes

By Anna Lock
Phoenix Rising staff

Can you imagine checking out library books by signing a card, then getting the book and card stamped with the due date? Of course, today when we check out books, it is all done digitally, but it hasn't always been this way.

Since everything in libraries is mostly done digitally, Phoenix Middle School's librarian, Sandra Huff, says, "The newest change has been the addition of eBooks, which can be read



on most devices. Our school libraries now teach Digital Citizen-

ship. Libraries also have computers that patrons can come in and use.

"Some public libraries have 3D printers for public use. I would say there are more classes offered on many different subjects."

Mrs. Huff mentions a lot of changes in technology that not only apply to our libraries, but other libraries in the area. Think about how our library and others would be different without the use of technology - we would not be able to experience digital citizenship lessons, coding, ebooks, destiny, computer classes, and much more.

Mrs. Huff says she has always enjoyed reading and writing. In her seventh- and eighth-grade years of schooling, she was also in the newspaper club.

"I enjoyed it very much. I re-

ally love to read, so as long as books were available, I was happy," she said.

Which explains why Mrs. Huff has worked at Phoenix as a librarian for five years, and previously at Wileman Elementary School in Delavan. But, other than reading and writing, she said, "I also love to spend time with the many animals we have on the farm and helping my grandkids get them ready for the fair."

Even with all of these amazing accomplishments, there are always challenges in life. This school year, Mrs. Huff has been dealing with breast cancer.

"This school year was a challenge for me as I have been in treatment for breast cancer. I have learned a lot about myself and have a new perspective on life," said Mrs. Huff. "I have



never felt so loved and cared for, not just from friends and family, but the staff and students here at Phoenix Middle School.

"It was an extremely scary thing, but with my faith and all of the support I received, I am feeling the best I've felt in a long time."

Students feel positive about Boys and Girls Club at Phoenix School

By Zabrya Russell and Emily Lock
Phoenix Rising staff

What is the Walworth County Boys and Girls Club? What do you do there? Well, the club is where, if you don't ride a bus and you can't get picked up by your parents after school, you can spend time there. People watch you until your parents pick you up or you can just stay after school for something fun to do.

At Boys and Girls Club, which is based in Phoenix Middle School, it helps interact with other students you don't know or you might know, but not be able to talk to during class or after class. The latest hour the club is open is 6 p.m., so you should have a ride ready by then. You are also able to leave early.

The main supervisor is Jeff Contraras, who helps establish relationships with the members and supports them. He has been in charge of the club for three and a half years. A change in the club, said Contraras, is that there will be a summer program in June. The other supervisor is Alex, who helps students with their homework and helps kids with any problems they might have.

"Boys and Girls Club is not a babysitting service," said Alex. Another supervisor named Olga Jamies is a leader and helper to the students. She also helps kids with their homework. She has been a part of the club for two years.

"Boys and Girls Club is relaxing and gives time to work, and it is helpful," said Izzy, a club member for three years.

Tavier has been in the club for seven months.

"Boys and Girls Club is fun, easy, and it gives you something to

Opinion:

Mrs. Huff is an inspiration

By Anna Lock
Phoenix Rising staff

I believe that Mrs. Huff's story can really be an eye opener and an inspiration to all. Sometimes life throws us challenges, but it's how we respond to those challenges that matters.

This story also shows just how a little faith and support can go a long way. Nobody can predict the future, and nobody know what can happen, so that can be pretty scary. But, when you have friends and family you know will always be there, things become a bit easier.

Mrs. Huff's story also shows how Phoenix Middle School is a team and has one another's back through the ups and downs of life.



Sandra Huff

Continued on page 2

Boys and Girls Club

Continued from page 1

do after school,” said Tavier, who added the club is a good one to join because you get to do your homework there.

Jordyn Swogger-Whitt has been in the local club for a month and a half. She likes to do her homework and she also likes free time at the club. Jordyn said people should join Boys and Girls Club because you get your work done and it’s fun.

Overall there were a lot of positive reviews, so it may be a good club to join if you’re interested.



Students participate in activities as part of the Walworth County Boys and Girls Club at Phoenix Middle School recently. (Photo by Zabrya Russell)



Boys are playing basketball as part of the Boys and Girls Club at Phoenix Middle School. (Photo by Zabrya Russell)

Phoenix offers garden opportunities

By Maddie Gums and Dahminick Markling
Phoenix Rising staff

Phoenix Middle School offers the use of raised bed garden plots to families of Phoenix

sixth graders and their families. The community garden started last year with a Garden Wise Grant secured by Yolanda Pena of the University of Wisconsin Extension office.

Principal Henry Schmelz, along with teachers, a custodian, students and community members, helped create the raised beds and filled them with compost and planted them with vegetables.

There is an opportunity to “adopt” a raised bed to area families who will care for them

and raise vegetables for themselves. It is asked that excess produce families grow be donated to the Harold Johnson Food Pantry in Delavan.

As of early May, the school garden did not have any progress as nothing yet had been

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PHOENIX RISING

Staff - Ryan Flitcroft, Anna Lock, Emily Lock, Maddie Gums, Zabrya Russell, Iesha Lee, Ethan Kraayeveld, Zachary Miller, Dahminick Markling, Kaleb Guzman, Paige Kennedy, Camden Lockhart and Felipe Leal.

Advisor - Thom Aiello



Staff - Jacob Prado, Morgan Lock, Kaia Warner, Racheal Bradley and Trinity Dement.

Advisor - Thom Aiello

Design - Wendy Shafer

Gamers have club at Phoenix

By Ethan Kraayeveld
Phoenix Rising staff

There is a club that started this year in Phoenix Middle School called the Gamer’s Club. The Gamer’s Club leader is counselor Mr Gross, but he is the not the person who thought of it.

People wanted there to be a club for gamers but, not games like shooter games. It is games like Dungeons and Dragons or Rpg games (Role Playing Games).

In the club, which is every month during PIE or homeroom, you just play from games like Kings Road to Town of Salem to almost any board game. The meetings last homeroom to PIE or PIE to eighth period.

There are about 20 members in the club. Although there is only one or two meetings left at this writing, you can join for next school year. Feel free to be at the Gamer’s Club in seventh or eighth grade.

OPINION PAGE

Sixth grade full of activities

By Emily Lock
Phoenix Rising staff

What was sixth grade like for me? Well, I remember the first day of school like it was yesterday. How afraid I was, but I had friends on my side. Also lockers and how tough it was to get them open and to switch to different teachers in different classes.

I also know my first dance and how it went. The first-ever dance was pretty cool, but the fact that people wore their clothes they had on from school surprised me, but I had to learn that the hard way. The dancing part made me and my friends sore. I also remember our last sixth-grade dance. I was very crazy and silly, but I feel like that is how I am always.

We, as sixth graders, had lots of rewards, like comedy sports, movies, bouncy houses, and more. The first one we had was probably the sixth-grade Willy Wonka movie with donuts and candy, but your grades had to be C and above.

One recent reward was the bouncy house on May 4th. You had to pay a great fee of starbucks to get in though. It was 100 starbucks to get in.

I also remember the first day of PIE in Mrs.Huff's Battle of the Books PIE. The party was so much fun. Also, Peer Helpers was a blast, getting to help others in your community and school.

I thought I was so cool that I was a very involved sixth grader. I was in volleyball, Peer Helpers, newspaper club of course, and Battle of the Books. I hope sixth grade was fun for you just like it was fun for me.

Sixth grade hard, but also fun

By Maddie Gums
Phoenix Rising staff

At first in sixth grade, I truly thought that doing Locker combinations and going to different classes was going to be fun to do, but it really is kind of stressful. You only get a specific time to grab your stuff and get ready for class.

The classes can be long, but they can go by really fast sometimes. Mr. Foster (the social studies teacher) is really funny and a good teacher. He teaches his class seriously, but also makes it fun.

The teachers are really nice, which is one thing I like about sixth grade. Another thing is that school ends at 2:46 p.m. Sixth grade can be hard, but it is worth it.

Review: Fortnite awesome



By Ryan Flitcroft
Phoenix Rising staff

Fortnite is one of the fastest-growing games on the planet. It is said there are more than 7 million to 8 million people playing Fortnite right now and it has a 4.6-star review.

The game has two modes - Save the World and Battle Royale. Save the World came out July 25, 2017, but Battle Royale came out some time in October.

The big reason why it is very popular is because it is FREE! However, they do have in-game purchase. The good part of the purchase is that they don't add

any competitive advantages; they just are for looks and to make you enjoy the game even more. Fortnite is so big that Marvel directors of the new Avengers Infinity War contacted Epic Games (the developers) and they have a new game mode about it.

Fortnite, in my opinion, is one of the best games I have played in a long time. Fortnite adds a competitive game that everyone has been wanting. It has an amazing builder system and it adds a whole new aspect to Battle Royale games in general.

So, in conclusion, I rate Fortnite 4.9 stars

Poems show the start of spring

By Zabrya Russell
Phoenix Rising staff

What the Robin Told

The wind
Told the grasses,
And the grasses
Told the trees
The trees
Told the bushes,
And the bushes
Told the bees,
The bees
Told the robin,
And the robin
Sang out clear.
Wake up!
Wake up!
Spring is here!

Goodbye Winter

Hello Spring!
The flowers are blooming.
The bees are buzzing.
Baby birds are hatching.
Leaves are green.
That's how you can tell spring is already here.



Members of the Phoenix Rising newspaper staff (from left) are: Iesha Lee, Emily Lock, Maddie Gums, Ethan Kraayeveld, Zachary Miller, Zabrya Russell, advisor Thom Aiello and Ryan Flitcroft. Not present were Anna Lock, Dahminick Markling, Kaleb Guzman, Camden Lockhart, Paige Kennedy and Felipe Leal. (Staff photo)

Counselor Engerson receives major honor



Jeanne Engerson

By Phoenix Rising staff
A Phoenix Middle School counselor earned a major state honor recently. Jeanne Engerson was the sole recipient of the Wisconsin School Psychologist

of the Year award. The award was given by the Wisconsin School Psychology Association.

In 2008, Engerson began with the district as an intern, according to a district news release. She was hired part-time during her internship and began full time in the 2009-10 school year.

“The work she is doing is having an impact

on our student achievement as Phoenix’s academic growth is among the best in the state,” said the release. “As a stellar school psychologist, Jeanne serves as a mentor to others entering the field and regularly takes on interns, offering them an opportunity to learn from a true expert.”

Garden

Continued from page 2

planted. Perhaps the unseasonal weather was a factor as it needed more work and plants. The school might be looking for students to do the garden. One day the teachers got students to help with the garden.

The garden is probably going to have tomatoes, etc. Hopefully, before the school year ends, the garden will be looking beautiful and great.

People can help the garden by donating vegetable plants, additional soil and/or fertilizer for the beds, straw to mulch the beds after planting and monetary donations to use where needed.

The project is said to expand the educational scope beyond the classroom and to provide local families hands-on experience to nurture the plants and produce their own food.

For more information, you can contact Briana Boviall at (773) 941-9833; Kelly Morales at (262) 475-8252; or Sherry Mathews (Walworth County Master Gardener volunteer) at (262) 366-0599.

Did you know?

By Zach Miller
Phoenix Rising staff

The earth rotates on its axis about every 24 hours



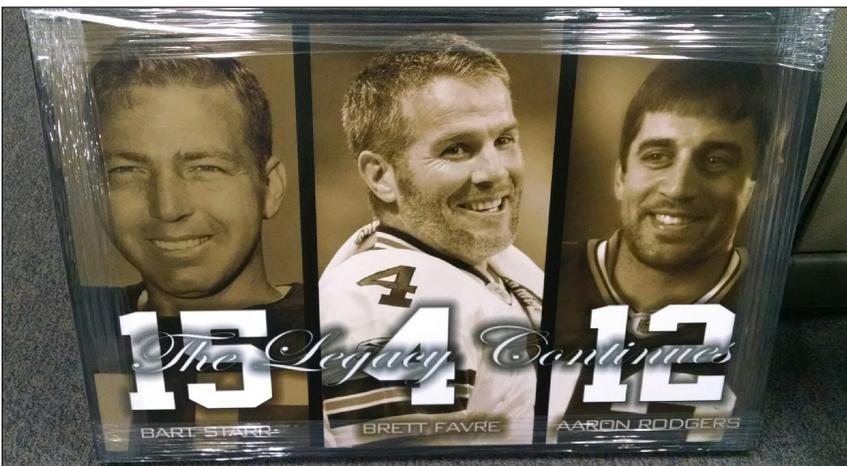
Empty Bowls fundraiser to help organizations



The Empty Bowls fundraiser at Phoenix Middle School on March 20 had a crowd estimated at nearly 300 for the soup dinner. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Lakeland Animal Shelter in Elkhorn and the Harold Johnson Food Pantry in Delavan. Each organization will receive \$977.10. (Photos by Thom Aiello, Phoenix Rising advisor)



Auction items, including these featuring the Milwaukee Braves' Hank Aaron and former University of Wisconsin and current Houston Texans star J.J. Watt, were popular during the Empty Bowls fundraiser March 20 at Phoenix Middle School.



Other auction item featured the Green Bay Packers legendary quarterbacks Bart Starr, Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers.